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Agenda item 122

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 17th plenary meeting, on 20 September 2005, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 3rd, 4th, 5th and 36th meetings, on 12 and 13 October and 23 December 2005. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/60/SR.3, 4, 5 and 36).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on measures to strengthen accountability at the United Nations (A/60/312);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, and time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative processes and procedures (A/60/342);

(c) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa (A/60/120);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/418).

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II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.17

4. At the 36th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa" (A/C.5/60/L.17), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Nigeria.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/60/L.17 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/60/L.29

6. At its 36th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/60/L.29), submitted by the Chairman.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/60/L.29 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999 and 59/272 of 23 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa,[1]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 59/287 of 13 April 2005 and its decision that the development of Africa shall be among the priorities of the Organization for the biennium 2006-2007;

2. *Also recalls* its resolutions 57/2 of 16 September 2002 and 57/7 of 4 November 2002, and stresses the important role played by the Economic Commission for Africa in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system at the regional level in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of programme and administrative management of the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa,[1] and welcomes the initial steps that the Commission has taken to implement the recommendations of the Office;

4. *Urges* the full and expeditious implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and requests the Secretary-General to support the efforts of the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices to implement the recommendations of the Office;

5. *Also urges*, in particular, the appropriate integration of the subregional offices into the strategy for the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure increased coordination and the most effective management of resources and implementation of mandates;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the information and communication technology capacity and strategy of the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices are fully integrated with the information and communication technology strategy of the Organization and that it is used to its full capacity to disseminate information by electronic means;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to fill vacancies in the subregional offices, inter alia, by recruiting staff with the

[1] A/60/120.

appropriate operational skills and expertise that match the development priorities of the respective subregions;

8. *Takes note with concern* of the finding that the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa have a restricted ability to act as the operational arm of the Commission throughout the countries of their respective subregions owing to the lack of adequate resources for core functions, the insufficient level of guidance and support from the headquarters of the Commission and the lack of a clear understanding as to the role of the subregional offices;

9. *Stresses* the important contribution that the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices are making towards supporting the efforts of the regional economic communities of Africa to implement the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and recognizes the need to strengthen the subregional offices;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop separate subprogrammes for the subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to enhance interaction between the regional advisers and subregional offices of the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure a closer link with subregional needs;

12. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a comprehensive plan of action to strengthen the subregional offices, based on the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, with timelines and clear lines of managerial accountability and, in the context of the action plan, to ensure that adequate resources are provided to the Economic Commission for Africa and its subregional offices to continue its support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the regional economic communities for Africa, as well as to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

Section A

The General Assembly decides to defer to its resumed sixtieth session consideration of the following agenda items and related documents:

Item 122
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on measures to strengthen accountability at the United Nations (A/60/312)

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution made by the Department of Management to the improvement of management practices, and time-bound plan for the reduction of duplication, complexity and bureaucracy in the United Nations administrative process and procedures (A/60/342)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/418)

Item 124
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations (A/60/424)

Report of the Secretary-General on the coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy, and on security spending by organizations of the United Nations system (A/60/317 and Corr.1)

Report by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the utilization and management of funds appropriated to strengthen the safety and security of the United Nations premises (A/60/291 and Add.1)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.9)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management (A/59/702)

Capital master plan

Third annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/60/550 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1)

Report of the Board of Auditors for the year ended 31 December 2004: capital master plan[1]

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.12)

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the capital master plan (A/60/288)

Second annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the capital master plan (A/59/441)

Report of the Secretary-General on the plans for three additional conference rooms and viable solutions for allowing natural light into the rooms (A/58/556)

Report of the Secretary-General on viable options for ensuring sufficient parking space at United Nations Headquarters (A/58/712)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of possible funding arrangements for the capital master plan (A/58/729)

Report of the Secretary-General on the cooperation with the city and state of New York related to the capital master plan (A/58/779)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the capital master plan for the biennium ended 31 December 2003 (A/59/161)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the United Nations capital master plan for the period from August 2003 through July 2004 (A/59/420)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the capital master plan (A/59/556 and A/C.5/59/SR.54)

After-service health insurance

Report of the Secretary-General on liabilities and proposed funding for after-service health benefits (A/60/450)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.11)

Conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system (A/60/78)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system (A/60/78/Add.1)

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/60/5 (Vol. V)).

Item 125
Programme planning

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fifth session[2]

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on proposals on the strengthening and monitoring of programme performance and evaluation (A/60/73)

Letter dated 20 October 2005 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/60/11)

Report of the Secretary-General on defining the administrative functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (A/59/562)

Item 127
Pattern of conferences

Report of the Committee on Conferences for 2005[3]

Report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/60/93 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (A/60/112)

Letter dated 12 October 2005 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/60/9)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/433)

Item 128
Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Report of the Committee on Contributions[4]

Report of the Secretary-General on the unpaid assessed contributions of the former Yugoslavia (A/60/140)

Letter dated 27 December 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/56/767)

Note by the Secretary-General on the outstanding assessed contributions of the former Yugoslavia (A/58/189)

Item 130
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2004 and programme of work for 2005[5]

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[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 16* (A/60/16 and Corr.1).
[3] Ibid., *Supplement No. 32* (A/60/32).
[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 11* (A/60/11).
[5] Ibid., *Supplement No. 34* (A/60/34).

Item 131
United Nations common system

Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 2005[6]

Report of the Secretary-General on the administrative and financial implications of the decisions and recommendations contained in the report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2005 (A/60/421 and Corr.1)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.3)

Report of the Secretary-General on new contractual arrangements (A/59/263/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on the Senior Management Network (A/60/209)

Report of the International Civil Service Commission for 2004[7]

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service (A/59/153)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service (A/59/399)

Item 132
Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Annual report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services for the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 (A/60/346 and Corr.1)

Item 136
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Secretary-General on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2005 (A/60/437)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/551)

Section B

The General Assembly decides to defer to its sixty-first session consideration of the following documents under agenda item 129:

Item 129
Human resources management

Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/60/310)

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[6] Ibid., *Supplement No. 30* (A/60/30 and Corr.1).
[7] Ibid., *Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30* (A/59/30 (Vol. II)).

Reports of the Secretary-General on the list of staff of the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/59/L.34 and A/C.5/60/L.2)

Biennial report of the Secretary-General on the use of gratis personnel, indicating nationality and summarizing duration of service and function performed (A/59/716)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/786)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on a study on the availability in local labour markets of the skills for which international recruitment for posts in the General Service category takes place (A/59/388)

Report of the Secretary-General on a study on the availability of skills in local labour markets for which international recruitment for posts in the General Service category takes place (A/60/262)

Report of the Secretary-General on a comprehensive assessment of the system of geographical distribution and assessment of the issues relating to possible changes in the number of posts subject to the system of geographical distribution (A/59/724)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of Headquarters agreements concluded by the organizations of the United Nations system: human resources issues affecting staff (A/59/526)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of Headquarters agreements concluded by the organizations of the United Nations system: human resources issues affecting staff (A/59/526/Add.1).